we reached the conclusion that the best plan would be to invite the Czar, together with the Empress and their family, to take up residence in this country, on the distinct understanding that they should not leave this country during the War except with the consent of the British Government.

Accordingly the Imperial War Cabinet " authorised the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to send a telegram in this sense to the British Ambassador at Petrograd."

Mr, Balfour, therefore, wired to Sir George Buchanan :—

" Foreign Office,
(Paraphrased) 22nd March, 1917.

Responding to the suggestion put forward by the Russian Government, His Majesty and the British Government are glad to invite the Czar and Czarina to take sanctuary in this country and to stay here for the duration of the War. In conveying this message to the Russian Government you are to make it clear that they must be responsible for providing for the maintenance of their Majesties here in a suitable manner."

To which Sir George Buchanan replied :—

ic 24th March*
(Paraphrased)

Yesterday I told the Foreign Minister the purport of your message, and to-day I communicated to him the contents of your telegram of

the 22nd
about this matter and stressed the
point that our